

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
AGRE-00 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15
ITC-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 XMB-02
OPIC-03 /096 W
-----068076 171548Z /43

O 171507Z AUG 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 378
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

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PASS STR FOR ACTION

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD, MTN
SUBJ: VISIT OF MTN TRADE TEAM - ARGENTINA

1. USMTN DEL (GRAEF, KNEPPER) MET WITH ARGENTINA MTN DEL
(AMB MARTINEZ, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR RAIMONDI) AUG 15 TO
DISCUSS AUG 22 MTN CONSULTATIONS IN BUENOS AIRES.

2. IN DESCRIBING ARGENTINA'S INTEREST IN THE MTN, AMB
MARTINEZ REPEATED THEIR OVERWHELMING INTEREST IN IMPROVE-
MENT IN EXPORT POSSIBILITIES FOR ARGENTINE BEEF, WHICH
REMAINED HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR ARGENTINE MTN DEL. MARTINEZ
CONTINUED TO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE A MEETING
IN GENEVA UNDER AUSPICES OF MTN MEAT SUB-GROUP INCLUDING
TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL
MEAT TRADE, INCLUDING HEALTH AND SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.
MARTINEZ FELT THAT MEETING AT TECHNICAL LEVEL IN GENEVA
IN MTN CONTEXT COULD HELP BRING PRESSURE ON JAPAN AND EC
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TO LIBERALIZE THEIR MEAT IMPORT PRACTICES. MARTINEZ
NOTED THAT ARGENTINA WAS NOT PARTICULARLY INTERESTED
IN "TRADITIONAL" CORN BEEF I.E. COOKED-FROZEN EXPORTS TO U.S.,
BUT WAS INTERESTED IN MANUFACTURED BEEF FOR FURTHER PROCESSING
IN U.S. MARTINEZ ALSO NOTED ESTABLISHMENT OF AFTOSA
FREE ZONE IN ARGENTINA, AND PROSPECT FOR ITS ENLARGEMENT.
COMPARED TO PROBLEMS OF MEAT TRADE, MARTINEZ SAID THAT

PROBLEM OF GRAINS WAS MUCH MORE MANAGEABLE, PRINCIPALLY REQUIRING SOME DISCIPLINE AMONG MAJOR IMPORTERS. US MTN DEL CAUTIONED MARTINEZ THAT TRADE TEAM WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS SPECIFICS OF AGRICULTURAL ISSUES, BUT WOULD WISH REVIEW IMPLICATIONS OF MTN TIMETABLE AGREED IN JULY, AND TO EXPLORE IN DEPTH ARGENTINE INTERESTS AND PRIORITIES IN THE VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. CONCERNING SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT (S&D) FOR LDCS, MARTINEZ NOTED THAT INDIA AND BRAZIL AT RECENT MEETINGS OF GROUPS AGRICULTURE AND NON-TARIFF MEASURES HAD PROPOSED THAT AGREEMENT BE REACHED ON SPECIFIC MEASURES OF S&D BEFORE OFFERS WERE TABLED. MARTINEZ INDICATED GREATER FLEXIBILITY ON THIS POINT, NOTING THAT IF AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC MEASURES OF S&D COULD NOT BE REACHED IN SOME AREAS NOW, POSSIBILITY OF S&D IN THAT PARTICULAR AREA SHOULD REMAIN OPEN THROUGH THE "...END OF THE DAY". MARTINEZ NOTED THAT THERE WERE SOME FORMS OF S&D THAT THE U.S. COULD NOT AGREE WITH AND WOULD OPPOSE. HE HOPED, HOWEVER, THAT U.S. OPPOSITION TO FOR EXAMPLE NON-LIBERALIZING FORMS OF S&D IN TARIFFS, WOULD NOT PREVENT OTHER COUNTRIES, THAT WISH TO, FROM GIVING THEM. US MTN DEL NOTED THAT THERE WAS SOME S&D, SUCH AS BINDING OF PREFERENTIAL TARIFF RATES OR MEASURES, THAT WE OPPOSED, AND WHICH, IF GRANTED, WOULD IMPEDE FURTHER TRADE LIBERALIZATION.

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4. CONCERNING OTHER AREAS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, MARTINEZ HAD THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A) TARIFFS - MARTINEZ NOTED THAT SOME VARIATIONS OF THE TARIFF FORMULAS OFFERED MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR S&D THAN OTHERS. HE HAD ASKED THE GATT SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE A LARGE AMOUNT OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR ARGENTINA BASED ON THE U.S. FORMULA PROPOSAL.

B) SAFEGUARDS - MARTINEZ REPEATED STANDARD LDC LINE THAT LDCS SHOULD BE EXEMPTED FROM SAFEGUARD ACTIONS IN PRINCIPLE. WHERE THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE, THEY SHOULD RECEIVE LARGER SHARES OF ANY QUOTAS OR INCREASES IN QUOTAS THAT WERE ASSIGNED. LDCS ALSO SHOULD HAVE INCREASED FLEXIBILITY TO TAKE MEASURES TO PROTECT THEIR DEVELOPING INDUSTRIES.

C) SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES - LDCS WERE CONCERNED WITH DC SUBSIDY PRACTICES AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE THESE PRACTICES ELIMINATED OR RESTRAINTS PUT ON THEIR USE BY DCS.

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D) GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT - MARTINEZ NOTED PARTICULAR
PROBLEM WITH MONOPOLY TRADING BY STATE CORPORATIONS IN
EUROPEAN EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES.

5. MARTINEZ HAD RECEIVED TELEGRAM FROM UNDERSECRETARY
CURA INQUIRING ABOUT THE VISIT. HE NOTED THAT RECENTLY
APPOINTED AMB MUSSACHIO WAS KNOWLEDGEABLE ON TRADE ISSUES.

6. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE IT IS INEVITABLE THAT MARTINEZ
AND OTHER GOA OFFICIALS WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK GENEVA MUL-
TILATERAL MEETINGS IN CONTEXT OF MTN ON MEAT TRADE, AND
LIKELY THEY WILL DO SO DURING CONSULTATIONS IN BUENOS AIRES.
MARTINEZ HAS REPEATEDLY TOLD US HE WILL JUDGE MTN AS A
FAILURE FROM ARGENTINA'S VIEWPOINT IF IMPROVED CONDITIONS
FOR ARGENTINE PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEAT TRADE
ARE NOT OBTAINED. WE ARE AWARE THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES
HAVE QUESTIONED USEFULNESS OF ENGAGING IN PLURILATERAL
DISCUSSION OF HEALTH AND SANITARY MEASURES IN THE PAST
(76 GENEVA 1641 AND LATER) AND THAT BILATERAL CONSULTATION
HELD WASHINGTON MARCH 21, (BUENOS AIRES 3344) BUT HAVE
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RECEIVED NO REPORT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE AS TO

CURRENT USG VIEWS FOR USE WHEN ARGENTINES AGAIN
RAISE THIS SUBJECT.

7. RAIMONDI INFORMED MTN DEL AUGUST 17 THAT HE HAD
BEEN REQUESTED BY GOA TO PROCEED TO BUENOS AIRES TO
PARTICIPATE IN CONSULTATIONS WITH TRADE TEAM. RAIMONDI
INFORMED OF SCHEDULE CONTINUED BUENOS AIRES 6035, AND
MAY SEEK CONTACT TEAM AT HOTEL REPUBLICA SUNDAY AUGUST
21. CULBERT

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: ETRD, MTN, (GRAEF, KNEPPER), (MARTINEZ)
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